the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone layer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India impressed upon the developed countries that the technology to switchover to the substitutes of ozone depleting substances like Chloro-Flouro-Carbons (CFCs) must be made available to the developing countries free of strings;

(c) if so, what is the response thereto; and

(d) what are the measures Government propose to take to protect the ozone layer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. India's position on this matter was widely appreciated as being representative of all developing countries. The meeting agreed that the accelerated phase-out schedule adopted by the developed countries will not apply to the developing countries until a comprehensive review in 1995 of transfer of technology and financial resources to meet the incremental costs.

(d) India has acceded to the Montreal Protocol in order to strengthen the international efforts to protect the depleting stratospheric ozone layer. At the national level, a strategy is being finalised for the phase-out of ozone depleting substances. Simultaneously, work has commenced on the preparation of the country programme and projects to be posed for assistance from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol.

Increase in Tobacco consumption

*411. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the extent of increase in tobacco consumption during the last three years;

(b) what is the rate of acceleration of its consumption;

(c) what is the number of cigarettes, chewing tobacco and Bidi manufacturing units in India;

(d) whether it is a fact that per-capita consumption of tobacco in India is the highest amongst the countries worldover;

(e) whether Government have initiated any steps to reduce tobacco consumption; and

(f) whether Government propose to ban tobacco advertisements ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) As per report of the Tobacco Board, the consumption of tobacco in India during the last three years has remained almost stagnant.

(c) There are 28 Cigarette manufacturing units in India. Information regarding chewing tobacco and Beedi manufacturing units are not available.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. Government have initiated several measures like education about the ill effects of tobacco, prohibition of smoking in public places besides statutory warning on Cigarette packs to the effect that smoking is injurious to health.

(f) A proposal in this regard is under consideration.

Special Grants for Nagpur and Hyderabad for National Highways and Ring Roads

*412. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request for allocation of more funds for National Highways and Ring Roads in Nagpur and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, what is the total central allocation for these two cities for the current and next financial years;

(c) what is the reason for not fulfilling their demand substantially; and

(d) whether Government propose to give special grants for these two cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Although there is no specific request for more funds for National Highway links and Ring Roads in Nagpur and Hyderabad, an amount of Rs. 16,000/- per km. is being released every year by the Central Government to State Governments for maintenance of urban links served by National Highways as per agreement entered into with them.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

Inquiry Against the Acting Chairman of AIL

*413. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gas Authority of India Limited has an acting Chairman;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to confirm him as the Chairman of Gas Authority of India Limited;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some inquiries are still pending against him; and

(e) if so, the nature of inquiries pending and the reasons for considering his confirmation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (e) Since November 1991, Director (Finance), GAIL, has been looking after the current duties of CMD (GAIL). While there are no enquiries against him, some information received is being verified. The proposal to appoint the Chairman & Managing Director of GAIL is under the consideration of the Government.

उपभोक्ताओं को गैस कनेक्शन देने संबंधी नीति

*414. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन आवेदकों को गैस कनेक्शन दिये जाने के संबंध में सरकार की क्या नीति है जिन्होंने पांच वर्ष पहले अपने नाम पंजीकृत करवाए थे;

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में उपभोक्ता संरक्षण फोरम द्वारा दिए गए निर्देशों का पालन किया जा रहा है; यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश की मैनपुरी गैस एजेंसी ने वर्ष 1987–88 में पंजीकृत आवेदकों की वरीयता की उपेक्षा करते हुए सैकड़ों व्यक्तियों को गैस कनेक्शन दिए हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस गैस एजेंसी के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही करेगी ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) नये एल० पी० जी० कनेक्शन, एक डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर को आवंटित नवीन उपभोक्ता पंजीकरण के आधार पर जो न कि पंजीकरण की अवधि के आधार पर बल्कि डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर के पास उपलब्ध स्लैक, प्रतीक्षा सूची और उत्पाद उपलब्धता आदि के आधार पर किया जाता है, प्रतीक्षा सूचीबद्ध आवेदकों को पंजीकरण के क्रमानुसार दिये जाते हैं ।